

Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

April, 2013

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1. Background

On September 4, 2012, President Santos announced the signing of a General Agreement for Termination of the Conflict between the Government of Colombia and the FARC, setting in motion the fourth official peace talks with this group. The initial agenda includes: 1) rural development, 2) guarantee of functional political opposition and civic participation, 3) end of conflict (laying down arms and reintegration into civilian life); 4) drug trafficking; and 5) rights of victims. Preparatory talks started in Oslo on October 17, 2012 and substantive negotiations, in Havana, on November 19, 2012.

2. Key Developments from March 28 to April 3

Eighth round of talks postponed

After setting an April 2 start date for the eighth round of negotiations, the GOC and FARC issued a joint press release announcing a later start in the third week of April, allowing both sides to work separately on sub-topics related to rural development.¹

The additional weeks will also be used to prepare for the forum on political participation in Bogotá on April 28 - 30, with the support of the UN and the Universidad Nacional.²

Army attacks strongest FARC bloc

Colombian forces identified remains of a FARC member killed in combat in mid-December as Salomón Guaca Artunduaga, alias 'Arturo Rojas', a leader of FARC's Southern bloc. This bloc has proven difficult to overcome, and the death of Arturo Rojas represents a significant success against the FARC.³

Santos rejects criticism of process

President Santos declared that in contrast to what critics say, no aspect of the negotiations has been improvised. He said that given that the GOC has not agreed to a ceasefire, the country will not have lost anything if the process does not produce positive results.⁴

3. Negotiations & Agenda

FARC share expectations

The FARC stated that the GOC should not hope for an end to the conflict without changes to Colombia's economic model. The guerrillas also declared that a couple of seats in Congress would not constitute their political participation, and they will not go to jail.⁵

¹ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/gobierno-descarta-crisis-aplazamiento-dialogos/338399-3>

² http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-en-colombia_12719096-4

³ http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/E/ejercito_aprieta_al_bloque_sur_la_estructura_mas_fuerte_de_las_farc/ejercito_aprieta_al_bloque_sur_la_estructura_mas_fuerte_de_las_farc.asp

⁴ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-santos-dice-que-va-de-acuerdo-a-lo-estipulado_12720802-4

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4. International Context

US Congress members support peace process

A group of Congress members signed a letter supporting the peace process and calling on Secretary of State Kerry to design policy and aid packages that take into account the needs of the process, specifically victims' reparations and the reintegration of child and adult ex-combatants, among others. The letter encourages the GOC and FARC to recognize conflict victims, and to apply International Humanitarian Law to respond to the needs of those most affected by the violence, such as ethnic minorities and women. In addition, the letter emphasizes the need for state crimes such as "false positive" cases to be judged and condemned.⁶ The text of the letter and a list of the Congress members who have signed it so far can be found at <http://www.lawg.org/component/content/article/76/1159>.

5. Other Voices

Women not represented at the negotiation table

Women's groups have expressed concern at the lack of a gendered approach to the dialogue, arguing for a more central place in the negotiations for women's experiences and perspectives. Topics such as gender inequality in land tenure and sexual violence as critical to the peace process.⁷

6. Emerging Challenges and Responses

Criticism from ex-Presidents

Political analysts and parties have called on the GOC and ex-Presidents Pastrana and Uribe to lower the tone of their criticism of each other. Uribe questioned the process for allowing the FARC too much impunity, while Pastrana criticized Santos for tying the peace process to his reelection. GOC members lashed back against Pastrana, noting that his attempts at peace in the late 90s never progressed as far as current negotiations.^{8,9}

Post-conflict police

The Colombian police are preparing for post-conflict. Their most recent call for applicants reveals a new emphasis on mature candidates with high levels of education. The reconditioned force will focus on citizen security and fulfill important community roles in conflict resolution.¹⁰

FARC shoot three girls for desertion

⁵ <http://www.cedema.org/ver.php?id=5537> and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/video-412711-farc-no-se-someteran-al-vaiven-del-ano-electoral>

⁶ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/congresistas-de-ee-uu-firman-respaldo-a-proceso-de-paz_12717155-4

⁷ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/nacional/articulo-413135-paz-sin-nosotras-no-paz>

⁸ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/sectores-llaman-a-la-calma-en-escenario-politico_12719057-4 and <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/expresidentes-ataque/338119-3>

⁹ <http://blogs.ft.com/the-world/2013/04/making-peace-in-colombia/#>

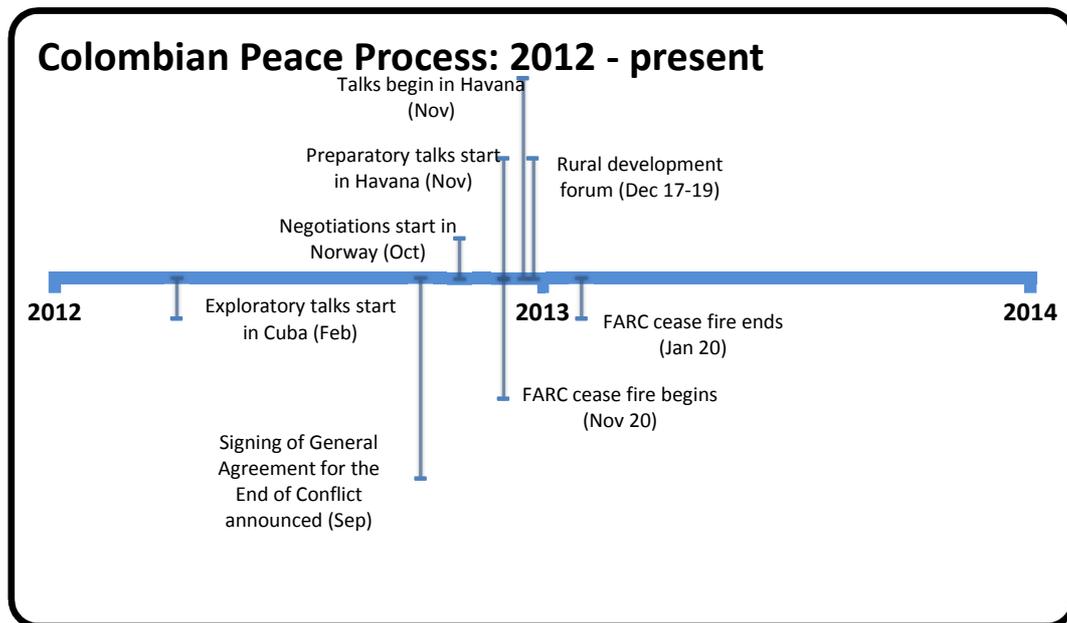
¹⁰ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/los-nuevos-policias-que-tendr-colombia_12717924-4

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A demobilized FARC member reported that three girls of ages 15, 16, and 17, combatants in FARC's First Front, were tied up for a month and then shot as punishment for their attempt to escape. Other reports suggest that up to 70% of combatants in the FARC's First Front are minors, many of them indigenous.¹¹

7. Timeline



8. Further Reading

Challenges to fundraising for peace

An article in La Silla Vacía explains how Colombia's recent classification as a medium-to-high income country, coupled with the global economic crisis, have rendered it more difficult to receive foreign assistance. The GOC confronts these difficulties as it searches for financial support for the institutional changes and development initiatives necessitated by the possible end of the armed conflict.¹²

Suggestions for a new Colombia: Senator Parmenio Cuéllar

Polo Democrático Senator Parmenio Cuéllar encourages an electoral strike in 2014 based on his belief that the current political spectrum does not represent the majority of Colombians.¹³

¹¹ <http://www.vanguardia.com/actualidad/colombia/202013-las-farc-habrian-asesinado-a-tres-ninas-que-desertaron-en-guaviare>

¹² <http://www.lasillavacia.com/historia/buscando-plata-para-la-paz-en-tiempos-de-crisis-42630>

¹³ <http://www.elspectador.com/noticias/politica/articulo-413073-refundar-insurgencia-democratica+>

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A proposition for reintegration of former combatants

Alexander Emilio Madrigal Garzón, a researcher with Gobierno Magazine, proposes that the Colombian military absorb ex-guerrilla members in order to strengthen efforts against drug trafficking and criminal organizations. This path for demobilized individuals, he says, would cultivate political maturity and contribute to reconciliation.¹⁴

Northern Ireland: a model peace process?

Politicians and journalists are currently looking to Northern Ireland as a possible model for the Colombian peace process.¹⁵

Soldiers sent to jail in “false positive” cases

Six soldiers were sent to jail for murder. They were found to have killed two civilians and later claim their corpses were those of guerrilla members killed in combat.¹⁶

¹⁴ <http://www.revistagobierno.com/portal/index.php/politica/actualidad/13865-proposicion-para-una-unica-contribucion-de-las-ffmm-de-colombia-al-proceso-de-paz>

¹⁵ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-21950766>

¹⁶ <http://www.rcnradio.com/noticias/ordenan-la-detencion-de-seis-militares-por-falsos-positivos-en-cordoba-57336>

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2. Key Developments from April 4 to April 10

FARC strengthens negotiating team

Jorge Torres Victoria, alias 'Pablo Catatumbo' and commander of the FARC's western bloc (Valle, Cauca, and Nariño), arrived in Havana to form part of the group's negotiating team.¹⁷ Fifty orders for arrest against six FARC members have been suspended to facilitate their participation in the talks in Havana.¹⁸

Uribe publishes coordinates of suspended military operations in Twitter

Ex-President Uribe was criticized for tweeting the coordinates within which military operations in western Colombia were suspended while Pablo Catatumbo left the area to go to Havana. The transport of Catatumbo and other arriving FARC negotiators to Cuba was not affected.¹⁹

Colombia marches for peace

Organized by the Marcha Patriótica, the April 9 peace march was supported and attended by President Santos, Mayor Petro, military representatives, and other interest groups. Thirty thousand people gathered in Plaza de Bolívar and many more attended across Bogotá.²⁰ April 9, chosen in commemoration of the assassination of Jorge Gaitán in 1948, has been named "Memory and Victims Solidarity Day."²¹

3. Negotiations & Agenda

Peace talks with ELN closer than ever

President Santos and Simón Gaviria of the Liberal Party confirmed that the ELN have expressed their interest in peace talks. Other sources assert that the ELN and GOC are in contact, but nothing has been formalized yet.²²

¹⁷ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/pablo-catatumbo-la-habana/338935-3>

¹⁸ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/articulo-414869-suspenden-50-ordenes-de-captura-contra-seis-nuevos-negociadores>

¹⁹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-traslado-de-jefes-de-las-farc-a-cuba_12732071-4

²⁰ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/marcha-por-la-paz_12732565-4. At the writing of this report, no reliable numbers were available; however, estimates put the total in the hundreds of thousands.

²¹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/articulo-414459-los-significados-del-9-de-abril>

²² <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-414388-proceso-de-paz-eln-vista>

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Agreement on land issues imminent

GOC negotiator Humberto de la Calle stated that GOC and FARC representatives in Havana are very close to formalizing an agreement on the most complex land issues.²³

Southern bloc responds to concerns on FARC divisions

The Conservative Party expressed concern that the FARC's southern bloc is not represented in the dialogues, and that commanders there will not demobilize if a peace accord is signed.²⁴ However, on April 9, Joaquín Gómez, commander of the southern bloc and members of the FARC secretariat, stated: "By virtue of subordination and conviction, the southern bloc agrees with the its representatives in the current peace talks in Havana."²⁵

Conservative Party divided on peace process

The Conservative Party called a meeting with GOC negotiator Humberto de la Calle and other GOC representatives to discuss peasant reserve zones and the legality of a possible agreement, among other controversial issues. At the meeting's end, the conservatives stated their support of the process.²⁶

Nonetheless, some conservatives continue to question the FARC's desire for peace.²⁷ Ex-President Pastrana sent a letter to Vice President Garzón suggesting that they "agree to disagree" about the validity of the process.²⁸ Pastrana also sent a letter to Santos saying that the leader had chosen the wrong negotiators to represent the GOC in Havana.²⁹

GOC announces judicial benefits for members of the military

President Santos declared that if a peace process is signed, members of the Armed Forces will receive as yet undefined judicial benefits.³⁰ GOC negotiator Humberto de la Calle also stated that transitional justice mechanisms will take into account the post-conflict needs of soldiers and other military personnel.³¹

Santos orders armed forces to continue offense operations

The President has ordered the military to continue fighting until a peace agreement is reached.³² He also highlighted the fact that the current armed forces are more numerous and better equipped than ever before in Colombian history.³³

²³ <http://www.caracol.com.co/noticias/actualidad/estamos-ad-portas-de-lograr-acuerdo-en-lo-mas-complejo-del-tema-de-tierras-de-la-calle/20130403/nota/1871915.aspx>

²⁴ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/articulo-413997-advierten-no-hay-consenso-farc-frente-al-proceso-de-paz>

²⁵ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/bloque-sur-de-las-farc-dice-que-est-de-acuerdo-con-proceso-de-paz_12733925-4

²⁶ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/articulo-413804-se-gesta-rebelion-del-partido-conservador-frente-al-proceso-de-p>

²⁷ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/articulo-414324-proceso-de-paz-ahonda-division-entre-los-conservadores>

²⁸ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/carta-de-andres-pastrana-a-angelino-garzon_12721943-4

²⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/articulo-414720-santos-estaba-negociando-habana-interlocutores-equivocados-pastr>

³⁰ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-estudian-beneficios-para-militares-si-se-firma-acuerdo_12726355-4

³¹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/de-la-calle-dice-que-no-olvidar-los-militares_12725682-4

³² http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/presidente-santos-mantiene-ofensiva-contra-las-farc-pese-a-dilogos_12723795-4

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4. International Context

Capriles supports peace process

Venezuelan Presidential candidate Henrique Capriles declared that if he were President, any conversation with the FARC would have to be approved by the GOC, and that he would support the peace process by aligning relevant Venezuelan policy with that of the GOC.³⁴

5. Other Voices

Cultural and environmental conservation in Amazonia without the FARC

The presence of the FARC in Amazonia has given them control over infrastructure in the area and prevented investment in large projects. In that sense, experts and indigenous leaders concur that the FARC have served as unwanted conservationists, but emphasize that they have also participated in deforestation, drug trafficking, and illegal mining that negatively affect the environment and indigenous values.³⁵

Cardinal Rubén Salazar: The peace process is mired in politicking

The leader of the Colombian Catholic Church lamented that politicians have created a negatively politicized setting for the process instead of working together for peace.³⁶

Piedad Córdoba requests an extension of Santos' term

Ex-Senator Piedad Córdoba has requested that the current Congressional and Presidential terms be extended by two years while a peace agreement is signed and implemented. She suggested that the extension would avoid election-related debates affecting the process.³⁷

6. Emerging Challenges and Responses

Inspector General deems legal framework for peace unconstitutional

Inspector General³⁸ Ordóñez stated that the legal framework for peace do not guarantee truth, justice, and victim reparations. In addition, he expressed that the laws imply impunity for those who have committed some types of crime in the conflict. Senate President Roy Barreras stated that Ordóñez' claims will be researched further.³⁹

FARC should contribute to demining efforts: Congress

³³ http://wsp.presidencia.gov.co/Prensa/2013/Abril/Paginas/20130403_02.aspx

³⁴ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/estaria-dispuesto-hablar-farc/339024-3>

³⁵ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/actualidad/vivir/articulo-414569-una-amazonia-sin-farc>

³⁶ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-est-rodeado-de-politiquera-dice-la-iglesia_12725482-4

³⁷ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/ARTICULO-WEB-NEW_NOTA_INTERIOR-12723208.html

³⁸ Procurador General

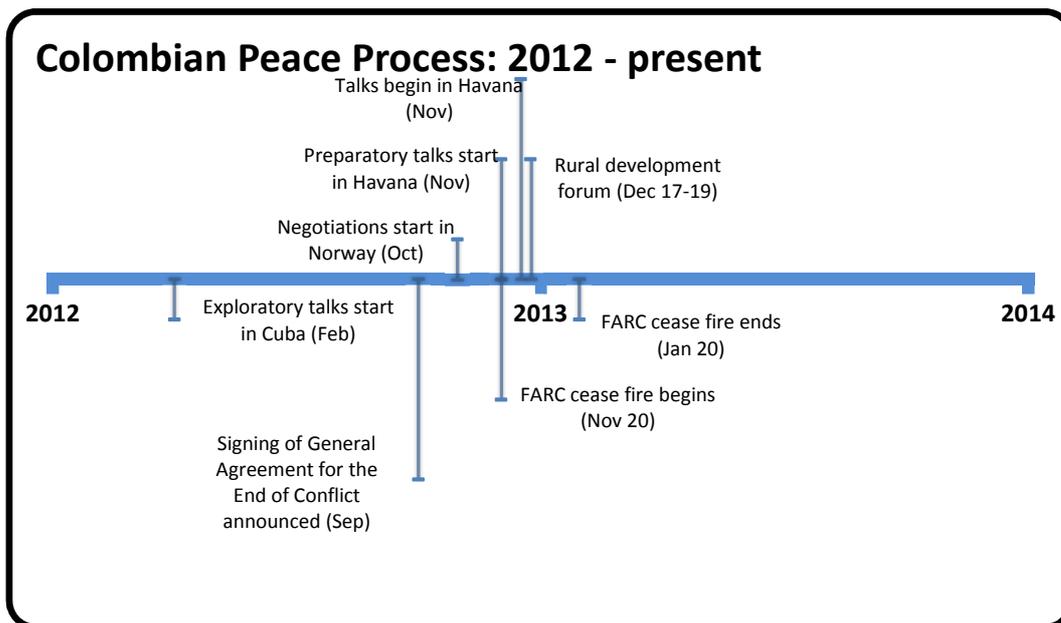
³⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/articulo-414389-un-camino-impunidad>

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After the International Day for Mine Awareness on April 4, Colombian Congress called on the FARC to tell authorities where they have planted mines, and to take responsibility for demining efforts. They argued that mines most frequently affect innocent civilians.⁴⁰

7. Timeline



8. Further Reading

[Peace march speech, photos, and other information](#)

Santos' speech at the peace march: http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/invitacin-del-presidente-santos-a-marchar-por-la-paz_12731917-4 Photos of the event:

<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/nacional/galeria-414866-asi-avanza-marcha-victimas>

Information on marches in different Colombian cities:

http://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/marcha-por-la-paz-asi-se-moviliza-el-pais_12732749-4

Political implications of the march: <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/la-marcha-aliados-paz/338922-3>

Universidad de los Andes launches online peace process resource

One new research document per week will be posted to this online peace process resource: http://derecho.uniandes.edu.co/images/stories/flasheventos/perspectivas_juridicas.swf

The FARC's anti-aircraft missiles: truth or fiction?

⁴⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/articulo-414027-proponen-farc-contribuir-un-desminado-humanitario>



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On March 20, US General Kelly stated that the FARC's drug-trafficking income allows them to buy "surface-to-air missiles."⁴¹ *Semana Magazine* said that Kelly was implying that the FARC are able to acquire such weapons, *not* that they have them. Evidence suggests that the FARC have attempted to buy Sam 7 missiles, but there is little evidence that they possess them.⁴²

⁴¹ <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/AS/AS00/20130320/100395/HHRG-113-AS00-Wstate-KellyUSMCG-20130320.pdf>

⁴² <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/el-fantasma-misiles-farc/338923-3>

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2. Key Developments from April 10 to April 16

New FARC negotiators arrive in Havana

'Pablo Catatumbo' arrived in Havana last week. After more than 40 years in the FARC, he is expected to take a central role in dialogues.⁴³ 'Laura Villa' and 'Sergio Ibañez' also arrived in Cuba, and are expected to work on political participation. 'Freddy Gonzalez', 'Lucas Carvajal', and 'Victoria Sandino Palmera' also joined the FARC team.⁴⁴

Next round of talks postponed for a second time

For unknown reasons, the eighth round has been postponed again, with talks now starting on April 22, five days later than expected.⁴⁵

Controversy over Legal Framework for Peace

The Attorney General and Inspector General disagree about the Legal Framework for Peace. The latter stated that the Framework allows FARC impunity because those who committed human rights violations could avoid jail.⁴⁶ The Attorney General declared his support for legal tools that facilitate the implementation of a peace accord. He stated that infractions of International Humanitarian Law will be investigated, and FARC leaders held responsible.⁴⁷

3. Negotiations & Agenda

UN announces forum to discuss FARC political participation

At the request of the GOC and the FARC, the UN and the Universidad Nacional have organized a forum to discuss the agenda items related to political participation, such as rights and

⁴³ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-415682-pablo-catatumbo-ideologo-su-pasado-cuestas>

⁴⁴ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/miembros-de-las-farc-en-los-dilogos-de-paz_12736043-4 and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-415681-nuevas-vozes-de-farc-cuba>

⁴⁵ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-416371-aplazado-inicio-de-octava-ronda-de-dialogos-entre-el-gobierno-y>

⁴⁶ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-procurador-dice-que-si-guerrilleros-no-pagan-crcel-colombia-ser-paria_12737179-4 and http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/defensor-respalda-el-marco-para-la-paz_12742175-4

⁴⁷ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/articulo-415582-fiscal-insiste-secretariado-de-farc-no-tienen-condenas-lesa-huma> and http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/guerrilleros-de-farc-no-tienen-condenas-por-delitos-de-lesa-humanidad-fiscal_12738944-4

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guarantees for opposition movements and parties. The forum will be held from April 28 to the 30. Conclusions will be communicated to the negotiating teams in Cuba.⁴⁸

Report indicates decrease in FARC manpower

A report compiled by Decisive Point Consulting stated that in the last six years, the FARC have lost 2,300 members due to death, capture, and demobilization, leaving 7,800 combatants.⁴⁹

4. International Context

ICC reviews Justice and Peace Law

A delegation of top advisors to the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court arrived in Colombia this week to assess progress under Colombia's Justice and Peace Law and review the Attorney General's new strategy to prioritize cases representing the most serious violations occurring in the context of armed conflict.^{50,51}

Colombia taken off Inter-American Commission for Human Rights "black list"

After evaluation last year, Colombia was removed from an ICHR list of countries that violate human rights. Colombia had been listed there since 2000.⁵²

Polo Democrático requests Obama's support of peace process

Senator Mauricio Ospina of the Polo Democrático party asked for the US President's support for the peace process, saying that the negotiations have become politicized.⁵³

5. Other Voices

Opinions on the Legal Framework for Peace

The Constitutional Court requested opinions regarding the Legal Framework for Peace. The Attorney General, Fundación Ideas para la Paz, the International Center for Transitional Justice, Iván Orozco, and others made contributions. Many defended the Framework, which has been criticized for allowing guerrilla impunity.⁵⁴

Antioquia business community supports Santos and the peace process

Members of 'Proantioquía', an organization that supports business in Antioquia, signed a letter supporting the peace process and Santos' work to achieve peace in the face of opposition.⁵⁵

Ex-Vice President's controversial campaign

⁴⁸ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-415978-onu-convoca-foro-discutir-participacion-politica-de-farc>

⁴⁹ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/estudio-muestra-que-farc-ha-reducido-nmero-de-hombres_12738112-4

⁵⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/impreso/cuademilloa/entrevista-de-cecilia-orozco/articulo-415947-va-compararse-mi-caso-succionado-el>

⁵¹ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/corte-penal-internacional-revisa-justicia-y-paz_12739814-4

⁵² <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/elmundo/articulo-416462-comision-interamericana-de-derechos-humanos-saca-de-lista-negra>

⁵³ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/reclaman-obama-su-apoyo-proceso-paz/339449-3>

⁵⁴ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/articulo-416129-no-va-haber-impunidad>

⁵⁵ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/espaldarazo-empresarios-antioquenos-santos/339482-3>

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To launch his 2014 pre-candidate presidential campaign for the Democratic Center Party, Francisco Santos used a billboard with images of FARC negotiator Iván Marquez and Pablo Escobar and the question “Guess who has killed more policemen?” The question echoes Uribe supporters’ opposition to the peace talks.⁵⁶ Ex-President Uribe defended Francisco Santos.⁵⁷

6. Emerging Challenges and Responses

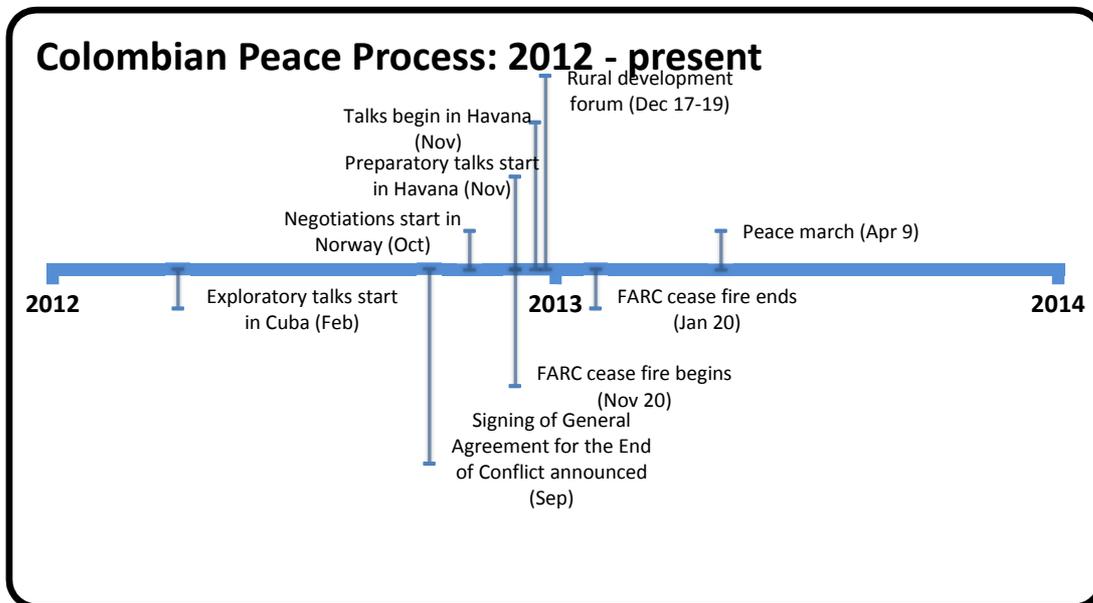
Children and the Colombian conflict

The Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) released a report on the effects of massacres, recruitment, and other incidents of conflict on children. Statistics included information on how many children have been affected by these events.⁵⁸ Save the Children also compiled a document on sexual and other violence against children in Colombia and other countries.⁵⁹

Reparation requests on the rise from victims of criminal groups

An increasing number of Colombians are requesting reparation for crimes committed against them by criminal groups or BACRIM.⁶⁰

7. Timeline



⁵⁶ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/polemica-por-vallas-de-francisco-santos_12742171-4

⁵⁷ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/articulo-416248-defensa-de-francisco-santos-uribe-compara-farc-pablo-escobar>

⁵⁸ http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/I/icbf_revelo_cifras_sobre_victimizacion_de_ninos_por_conflicto/icbf_revelo_cifras_sobre_victimizacion_de_ninos_por_conflicto.asp

⁵⁹ <http://www.elnuevosiglo.com.co/articulos/4-2013-ni%C3%B1os-violados-por-el-conflicto-armado.html>

⁶⁰ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/ARTICULO-WEB-NEW_NOTA_INTERIOR-12736040.html

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8. Further Reading

Meaning of the peace march

Various articles analyzed the significance of the April 9 peace march. Opinions included: the march was important for its diversity; it gave international leaders an opportunity to express support for the negotiations; it provided the process with more energy and public support; the photo of President Santos and Bogotá Mayor Petro (ex M-19 guerrilla member) planting a tree together encourages reconciliation; it is a base for President Santos' reelection campaign.⁶¹

On the cost of peace

On April 16th, El Tiempo held an event with the following experts to discuss the possible cost of peace in Colombia: ex-Minister Hommes; Senator Laserna; Daniel Mejía (Economics professor at the University of the Andes); journalist Pedro Medellín (who will present conclusions). The main conclusion was that peace is costly but will bring long-term economic benefits.⁶²

El Tiempo also surveyed the directors of various media companies on information management in the peace process. Media directors disagreed as to how much information on the talks should be disclosed.⁶³

Military perspectives on the talks

Members of the Colombian military are not permitted to participate in politics, and have been relatively silent with respect to the peace process, leading to speculation that they do not support it. El Espectador concluded that the military trust the government, but have concerns about FARC impunity and the benefits that the armed forces will receive after a negotiated settlement.⁶⁴

⁶¹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/soyperiodista/articulo-415661-paz-vuelta-de-esquina> and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-415024-marcha-paz-una-movilizacion-pluralista> and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-415119-obligacion-de-paz> and <http://www.elespectador.com/opinion/editorial/articulo-415256-despues-de-marcha>

⁶² http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/dialogos-de-paz-analisis-en-cuatro-aspectos-si-se-logra-acuerdo_12743872-4

⁶³ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/negociaciones-de-paz-en-la-habana-cuba_12742328-4

⁶⁴ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/articulo-415943-tensiones-de-tropa>

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1. Background

On September 4, 2012, President Santos announced the signing of a General Agreement for Termination of the Conflict between the Government of Colombia and the FARC, setting in motion the fourth official peace talks with this group. The initial agenda includes: 1) rural development, 2) guarantee of functional political opposition and civic participation, 3) end of conflict (laying down arms and reintegration into civilian life); 4) drug trafficking; and 5) rights of victims. Preparatory talks started in Oslo on October 17, 2012 and substantive negotiations, in Havana, on November 19, 2012.

2. Key Developments from April 17 to April 23

New round of talks began on April 23

The eighth round of peace talks began on April 23 in Havana with hope that the round will bring an agreement on the first agenda point – agrarian reform – so that the table can start discussion on the second point – political participation.⁶⁵

GOC-ELN talks to start in May

Contact and exploratory discussions between the GOC and the ELN have produced an agreement to start formal peace talks in May. Each party will send to the negotiating table a team of five representatives. The GOC delegation will include ex-Inspector General Jaime Bernal Cuellar, and Major General (ret) Eduardo Antonio Herrera Berbel, dean of the Military University. Two members of the ELN team are Israel Ramírez Pineda, alias "Pablo Beltrán", a central commander, and Juan Carlos Cuellar, better known as "Comandante López" or "Silvio". Topics to be addressed may include oil, foreign investment, and the right to education.⁶⁶

President Santos announces run for a shortened presidential term

President Santos announced that he intends to run for reelection, but that his second term would only be two years long, not four as dictated by the Colombian Constitution. He stated that this would allow the peace process to progress without being linked to the political interests of those who seek the presidential candidacy.^{67,68}

3. Negotiations & Agenda

GOC negotiator de la Calle warns of a "civil war of words"

Mr. de la Calle called for less heat and more respect in the ongoing debate on the process, stating that "our children and grandchildren would not forgive us if we reach an agreement

⁶⁵ <http://www.cedema.org/ver.php?id=5577> and <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-conversaciones-en-la-habana-se-reanudar-el-23-de-abril> 12748685-4 and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-416880-gobierno-y-farc-reanudan-dialogos-el-proximo-23-de-abril> and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-417518-proceso-de-paz-se-reaviva>

⁶⁶ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-417571-dialogos-de-paz-el-eln-empezarian-mayo>

⁶⁷ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/la-propuesta-santos-cambia-agenda-politica/340902-3> and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/articulo-417343-dos-anos-mas-paz-y-el-gobierno>

⁶⁸ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/articulo-417343-dos-anos-mas-paz-y-el-gobierno> and <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/la-propuesta-santos-cambia-agenda-politica/340902-3>

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with the guerrillas and then allow civil society to destroy the possibility of peace.” He reminded Colombians that their opinions on the process will be given voice in the referendum.⁶⁹

4. International Context

US Government expresses concern over possible impunity

The US Sub-Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Work, Uzra Zeya, affirmed his country’s support for the peace process. He stated that the GOC has made progress in human rights, especially in terms of land restitution and agrarian reform. Zeya also declared that concern remains over perceived impunity with respect to human rights violations.⁷⁰

UK Government supports peace in Colombia

British Ambassador Lindsay Croisdale-Appleby declared his government’s hope that the GOC-FARC peace negotiations prove fruitful and belief that the process represents a step forward in human rights in Colombia. A recent human rights report by the UK Chancellery highlights sexual violence, displacement, violence against the defenders of victims, and forced disappearance in Colombia, but states that this panorama is changing.⁷¹

IACHR urges Colombia to protect community leaders

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights urged the implementation of an integrated policy framework that protects those who represent victims’ rights. The Commission expressed alarm at the volume of threats, murders, and other violence directed towards these community leaders.⁷²

ICC reminds Colombia of obligations under international law

Colombia’s High Commissioner for Peace, Sergio Jaramillo, met with three delegates from the International Criminal Court to discuss the dialogues taking place in Havana. The delegation expressed their support for the negotiations and reminded the GOC of the need to investigate and try crimes covered by the Statute of Rome.⁷³ They also asked that high commanders of the armed forces be held accountable for the “false positive” cases.⁷⁴

Context note: False positive cases are those that involved the capture and murder by the armed forces of civilians, whose cadavers were handed over to the authorities as supposed guerrilla members to receive economic and other incentives offered by the State for guerrilla captures.

⁶⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-417029-paz-democracia-y-voz-de-victimas> and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/articulo-416925-hay-una-guerra-civil-verbal-alrededor-del-proceso-de-paz-humbert> and http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-de-la-calle-pide-cordura-a-criticos_12748873-4

⁷⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/elmundo/articulo-417515-los-colombianos-deben-definir-el-remedio-sus-crimenes>

⁷¹ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/el-apoyo-del-reino-unido-paz-colombia/340154-3>

⁷² <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/articulo-417264-cidh-urge-colombia-protoger-lideres-sociales>

<http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/cidh-resalta-trabajo-colombia-dd-hh/340275-3>

⁷³ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/delegacion-cpi-avalo-proceso-paz/340181-3>

⁷⁴ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/ARTICULO-WEB-NEW_NOTA_INTERIOR-12751228.html

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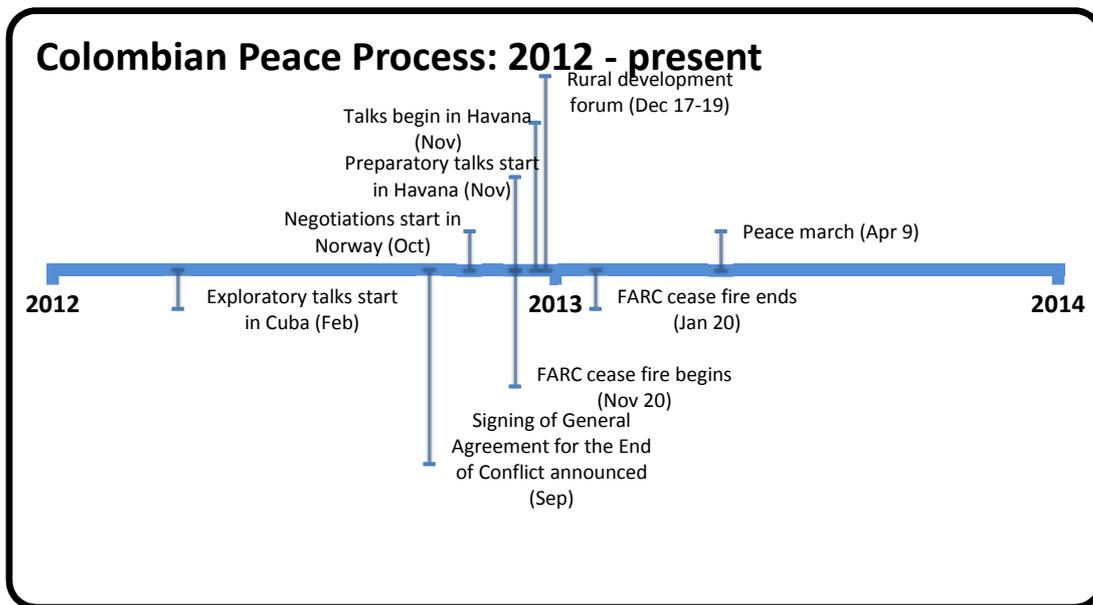
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5. Emerging Challenges and Responses

Law project to create a criminal category of “sexual violence in conflict”

The Chamber of Representatives approved a project that will modify laws 599 of 2000 and 906 of 2004 to adopt measures that will eliminate barriers that victims of sexual violence in conflict experience in seeking redress.⁷⁵

6. Timeline



7. Further Reading

Surveys of public support for peace and perceptions of government

Semana Magazine surveyed opinions on the peace process of 1,012 Colombians. The report found: approval for the peace process has increased to 63% after decreasing to 57% in November; 69% do not agree that the FARC should not have to go to jail; and 67% do not agree that the FARC should participate in politics.⁷⁶

Other surveys by Semana, RCN Radio, and other entities show: 36% of Colombians view Santos favorably; 68% of Colombians have a negative perception of the direction the country is taking; and positive opinion of ex-President Uribe increased by 5 points to 58%.⁷⁷

⁷⁵ <http://www.caracol.com.co/noticias/judicial/aprueban-proyecto-de-ley-para-tipificar-el-delito-de-violencia-sexual-en-el-conflicto/20130418/nota/1883669.aspx>

⁷⁶ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/hay-mejor-ambiente-para-paz/340640-3>

⁷⁷ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/la-gran-encuesta/261973-3>

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1. Background

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2. Key Developments from April 24 to April 30

Forum on political participation in Bogotá

Representatives of political parties, social movements and civil society came together on April 28 for a three-day Forum on Political Participation organized by the Universidad Nacional and the United Nations. The forum gathered proposals on rights and guarantees opposition and new movements, mechanisms for citizen participation, and measures to promote greater political participation. Participants also heard international experiences of ex-combatants who now participate in politics.⁷⁸ The Centro Democrático Movement, led by ex-President Uribe, declined to attend the forum.⁷⁹

3. Negotiations & Agenda

There will be no “express peace process”: FARC

The FARC called on Colombians to show patience, saying that rushing would lead to failure of the GOC-FARC peace negotiations.⁸⁰

M-19: example of how guerrilla groups come to participate in politics?

Vera Grabe, co-founder of the guerrilla group “Movimiento 19 de Abril” (M-19), stated that the guerrilla group’s participation in Colombian politics provides an example for the current peace process. Grabe, who was the first congress member to come out of the M-19, highlighted her own experiences and those of Bogotá Mayor Gustavo Petro, also a former M-19 member.⁸¹

Perspectives on the FARC’s political participation

Senate President Roy Barreras expressed optimism on the peace process, and said that he can see himself sitting in Congress with FARC leaders ‘Timochenko’ and ‘Iván Márquez’.⁸² At the

⁷⁸ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-418938-instalan-bogota-foro-sobre-participacion-politica-de-subversion> and http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/foro-sobre-participacion-en-politica-en-bogota_12766830-4 and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-419061-reanudan-bogota-foro-sobre-participacion-politica-de-farc>

⁷⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-418354-movimiento-de-uribe-no-asistira-foro-politico-del-proceso-de-paz>

⁸⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-418880-farc-piden-paciencia-y-rechazan-proceso-de-paz-express-colombia> and http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/farc-pide-paciencia-y-rechaza-un-proceso-de-paz-express-para-colombia_12767242-4

⁸¹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-418769-vera-grabe-dice-m-19-demuestra-guerrilla-puede-hacer-politica-co>

⁸² <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-418603-presidente-del-senado-vaticina-llegada-de-farc-al-congreso> and http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/jefes-de-las-farc-llegarn-al-congreso-dice-roy-barreras_12764565-4

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Forum on Political Participation, Barreras called on the FARC to recognize and ask for forgiveness from their victims. He also declared that contrary to frequent criticism, the Legal Framework for Peace does not allow impunity.⁸³ Meanwhile, GOC lead negotiator Humberto de la Calle said that FARC leaders' future legal ability to participate in politics has yet to be defined.⁸⁴ He also stated that military doctrine and the restructuring of the armed forces will not be discussed with FARC as it is not included in the negotiations agenda.⁸⁵

FARC present their last four proposals on agrarian reform

The FARC expect to reach an agreement on agrarian reform in May, after having made their last four proposals on the issue in talks this week.⁸⁶

4. International Context

Judicial issues related to US support for peace process

The FARC commended the letter sent by 62 US Congress members to Secretary of State Kerry. The guerrillas suggested that the US should offer an aid package to support the implementation of measures to achieve lasting peace in Colombia. They called for the creation of a Truth Commission and a social security program for poor farmers. The effect of recent accusations against 50 FARC commanders is yet unknown.⁸⁷

Military justice reforms necessary to achieve peace: UN Commissioner

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay, has high hopes for the current peace process. However, she stated that the current military court reform will have to align more fully to international standards in order to contribute to lasting peace.⁸⁸

5. Emerging Challenges and Responses

ICRC delegation leader speaks about peace in Colombia

ICRC Colombia presented a new human rights report, expressed support for the peace process and stated concern that the victims of criminal groups (BACRIM) cannot access reparations.⁸⁹ The Urabeños BACRIM group is reported to have more members than the ELN.⁹⁰

One child is rescued daily

⁸³ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-418987-presidente-del-senado-roy-barreras-insta-farc-pedir-perdon-sus-v>

⁸⁴ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-participacion-de-efes-de-farc-en-politica_12769908-4

⁸⁵ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-419109-reduccion-de-ffmm-no-se-discutira-habana>

⁸⁶ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/farc-presentan-propuestas-para-el-tema-agrario_12759743-4 and

http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-farc-dicen-que-habria-resultados-en-mayo_12770614-4

⁸⁷ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-418481-los-problemas-juridicos-eeuu-colabore-el-proceso-de-paz> and

http://www.laopinion.com.co/demo/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=418691&Itemid=210

⁸⁸ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/entrevista-a-la-delegada-de-la-onu-navanethem-pillay_12763186-4

⁸⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-418090-dialogos-de-paz-aun-no-tienen-un-impacto-positivo-sobre-victimas> and http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/cruz-roja-dice-que-vctimas-de-bandas-criminales-no-son-reparadas_12760203-4 and

<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-418225-acuerdos-farc-no-acabaran-violencia>

⁹⁰ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/crecimiento-de-los-urabenos-en-el-pais_12766715-4

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The Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) has assisted 5,156 children who have left illegal armed groups in the last 13 years, averaging one child rescued from the conflict per day.⁹¹

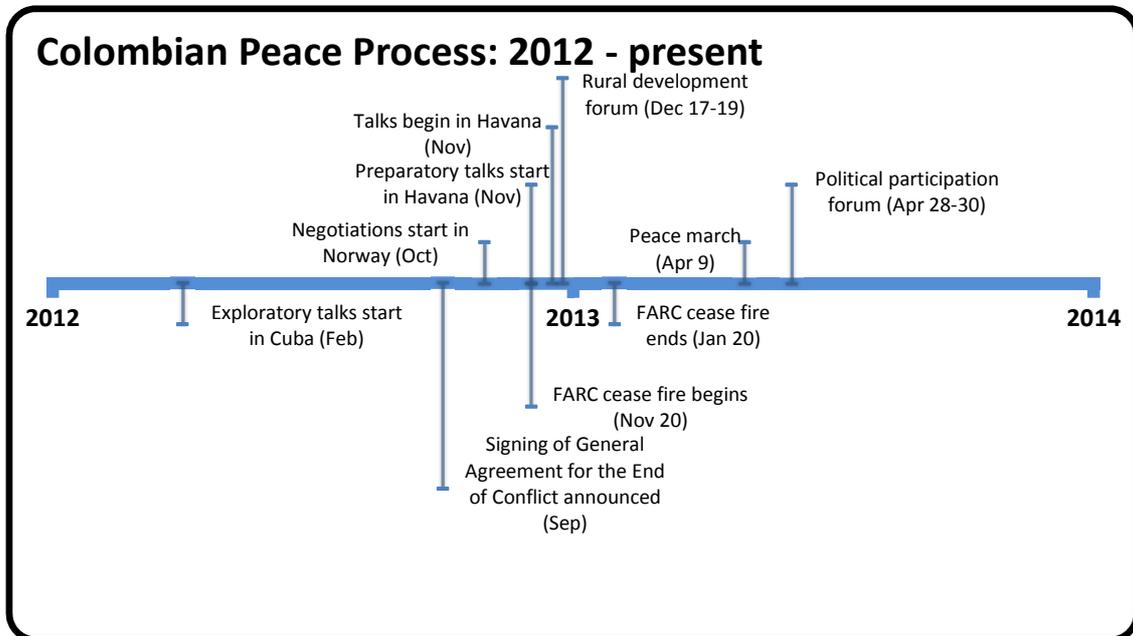
Stigmatization negatively affects reintegration

Alejandro Éder, Director of the Colombian Reintegration Agency (ACR), stated that the stigma experienced by demobilized persons acts as an obstacle to their employment. Guillero Botero, Colombian Business Federation (Fenalco) President, countered that demobilized people are responsible when they begin a job, but become less dedicated later. Rafael Mejía, Trade Council President, warned that economic reintegration of thousands of demobilized people would be complex.⁹²

Ex-President Samper presents post-conflict pilot plan

‘From national conflict to local post-conflict’ is the name of the pilot plan presented by Ex-President Samper at a forum last week, supported by Corporación Vivamos Humanos and the Organization of Ibero-American States. The plan will be implemented in Viotá (Cundinamarca) and Granada (Meta) to test strategies for reintegration for demobilized individuals.⁹³

6. Timeline



⁹¹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/ninos-rescatados-de-la-guerra_12766875-4

⁹² http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/reintegracin-de-los-desmovilizados-a-la-sociedad-civil_12766912-4

⁹³

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7. Further Reading

Piedad Córdoba: FARC will reveal graves of soldiers

Ex-Senator Piedad Córdoba said that the FARC will disclose the locations of common graves in which they buried Colombian soldiers. She considered this an act of peace from the FARC.⁹⁴

Armed forces protect their aircraft from FARC attacks

Recently circulated videos show the FARC with large missiles, causing concern that they will attack military aircraft. However, General Tito Pinilla affirmed that the missiles in the videos are outdated, and that the Colombian air force is able to defend itself from missile attack.⁹⁵

International experiences of ex-combatants

El Tiempo talked with experts and ex-guerrilla members who participate in politics in El Salvador, Uruguay, South Africa, and the Philippines about the current GOC-FARC negotiations. The article can be found at: http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/entrevista-con-tres-excombatientes-que-estan-en-la-politica_12768043-4

Colombia's IDPs numbers around 5 million

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Center and Norwegian Refugee Council reported 4.9 - 5.5 million internally displaced people in Colombia.⁹⁶ The report is found here: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/publications/global-overview-2012>

⁹⁴ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/articulo-418500-piedad-cordoba-dice-farc-revelarian-fosas-de-militares-muertos> and http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/piedad-crdoba-dice-que-farc-entregara-cuerpos-de-militares_12763516-4

⁹⁵ <http://www.caracol.com.co/noticias/judicial/ffmm-protogen-sus-aviones-frente-a-posible-ataque-con-misiles-de-las-farc/20130424/nota/1887513.aspx>

⁹⁶ <http://www.elpais.com.co/elpais/judicial/noticias/colombia-pais-con-mayor-numero-desplazados-internos-mundo-segun-informe> and http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/colombia-con-mas-desplazados-en-el-mundo_12768564-4 and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-22341119>